

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department,
(Museums and Exhibitions),—Circular No. 28 Ex. dated Simla, the 12th August 1885.
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RESOLUTION.

READ the following—
Statistics and Commerce Despatch, No. 49, dated London, the 14th May 1885, from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

I FORWARD 225 copies of the official report of a meeting of the Royal Commissioners for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, held at Marlborough House on the 30th March, sent to me by Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, Secretary to the Commission, for distribution to intending private Exhibitors in India.

2. You may perhaps consider it advisable to publish the report in the Official Gazettes, for general information.

Proceedings of the first Meeting of the Royal Commission, for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, held at Marlborough House, Monday, 30th March 1885.

The Royal Commission appointed by Her Majesty the Queen for the purpose of organizing the above exhibition met for the first time on Monday, the 30th March, at Marlborough House, under the presidency of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The following members of the Commission were present:—Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Marquis of Normandy, the Marquis of Lorne, the Marquis of Hamilton, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Dalhousie, Earl Cadogan, the Earl of Kimberley, the Earl of Lytton, Viscount Bury, Field-Marshal Lord Strathnairn, the Hon. Edward Stanhope, M. P., the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, M. P., the Right Hon. William Edward Forster, M. P., the Right Hon. Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach, M. P., the Right Hon. Anthony John Mundella, M. P., the Right Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Henry Thurston Holland, M. P., Sir Daniel Cooper, Sir John Rose, Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant, General Sir Frederick Paul Haines, Major-General Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Henry Brownlow, General Sir Edwin Beaumont Johnson, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Dominick Daly, Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel James Browne, Sir Robert George Wyndham Herbert, Major-General Sir Frederick Richard Pollock, Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Burnett Lumsden, Sir Barrow Herbert Ellis, Lieutenant-General Sir D. Macnaghten Probyn, Surgeon-General Sir Joseph Fayrer, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Colonel Sir Owen Tudor Burne, Major-General Sir A. Clarke, General Sir Edward Selby Smyth, Sir Arthur Blyth (Agent-General for South Australia), Sir Charles Tupper (High Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada), Sir Francis Dillon Bell (Agent-General for New Zealand), Sir Saul Samuel (Agent-General for New South Wales), Sir William Charles Sargeant (Crown Agent for the Colonies), Sir Charles Hutton Gregory, Sir John Coode, Sir George Christopher Molesworth Birdwood, Colonel Henry Yule, Lieutenant-General Charles John Foster, Mr. John Arthur Godley, Mr. Horace George Walpole, Lieutenant-General Richard Strachey, Colonel James Michael, Colonel Arthur Edward Augustus Ellis, Mr. Charles Mills (Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope), Mr. Arthur Hodgson, Captain Montagu Frederick Ommanney (Crown Agent for the Colonies), Mr. Robert Murray Smith (Agent-General for Victoria), Mr. James Francis Garrick (Agent-General for Queensland), the President of the Royal Agricultural Society, the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. Henry Coppinger Beeton, Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M. P., Mr. Bertram Wodehouse Currie, Mr. William George Pedder, and Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, secretary.

His ROYAL HIGHNESS, in opening the proceedings, said :—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—In addressing you for the first time, I would remind you that the objects for which Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint this Commission are, briefly, to organize and carry out an Exhibition by which the reproductive resources of our Colonies and of the Indian Empire may be brought before the people of Great Britain and by which also the distant portions of Her Majesty's Dominions may be enabled to compare the advance made by each other in trade, manufactures, and general material progress.

The project, to the realization of which I have looked forward for some years, is essentially one of a National and Imperial character, differing in this respect from former Exhibitions, in which the elements of trade rivalry and profit largely predominated.

No such opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with the economic condition of our Colonies and the Indian Empire has ever been afforded in this country. The attractive display in the Indian and Colonial Courts at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 could only be witnessed by a comparatively small number of the population of these Islands, millions of whom may be expected to view and profit by the evidence which the Exhibition of 1886 will afford of the marvellous progress made by their fellow-countrymen beyond the seas.

I also trust that this gathering may serve even a higher purpose; and be the means not only of giving a stimulus to commercial interests and intercourse but of strengthening that Bond of Union between Her Majesty's subjects in all parts of the Empire, the growth and manifestation of which are most sincerely appreciated by us all.

Whilst Her Majesty's Government have given their hearty approval to the objects for which the Commission has been appointed; they have not so far found it desirable to make any definite grant towards it. The Commission have, therefore, to rely entirely upon the public support of the great purposes which the Exhibition is intended to promote; and on the attractive form which it will be the endeavour of all concerned to give to it.

I cannot doubt but that, under such conditions, should no untoward events occur, the project will be more than self-sustaining.

At the same time, it has been thought prudent not to dispense with the usual provision of a Guarantee Fund, though I trust, no circumstances may arise rendering it necessary to make any call on the Guarantors. To this Fund, the Indian and Colonial Governments have made liberal contributions, amounting to £51,000.

I have also to announce with much gratification that the most cordial and generous response has already been made by Corporations, Firms and individuals in the United Kingdom to an invitation to participate in this Guarantee. Although no formal or public appeal has yet been made, and the number invited to contribute to it has so far been limited, the list of subscribers not only embraces those whose interests may be supposed to be specially affected by the Exhibition, but comprehends every class of the community. Though but recently commenced, these further subscriptions already amount to £77,600, making a total Guarantee Fund of £128,600 to the present date.

I feel sure that you will unite with me in the expression of cordial thanks to those who have so promptly and liberally come forward to our assistance. It is a gratifying proof of the interest which exists among all classes at Home and in the outlying countries of the Empire, and of the desire felt by them to embrace every occasion to promote the common advancement and prosperity of the United Kingdom and its Colonies and Dependencies.

Considering the inconvenience which would have resulted to the Members of the Commission had they been summoned to meet at an earlier date, and in view of the immediate assembling of the various Colonial Legislatures, whose co-operation had to be obtained, I deemed it necessary, in order that full time might be given for the preparation of contributions, to take certain preliminary steps, which I trust will meet with your approval.

I have accordingly to announce that arrangements have been made by which the Buildings and Grounds at South Kensington, where the Fisheries and Health Exhibitions were recently held, have been placed at the disposal of this Commission, on fair terms, and the Buildings can be made available for our purposes at a moderate outlay.

I therefore caused plans of these Grounds and Buildings to be prepared, showing the space which the Commission could assign to India and the various Colonies, and the arrangements which were deemed most convenient. These were communicated to the Government of India, to the High Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada, to the various Agents-General of the Colonies, and, through the Colonial Office, to the Crown and other Colonies, and have met with their approval. Similar communications have been made through the Secretary of State for the Colonies direct to the various Governments, and to the Secretary of State for India with like results.

In the despatch which contained this information, I also stated that it was considered advisable that, in place of any awards being granted by Juries, as has been the case in previous Exhibitions, Commemorative Medals only should be given to each exhibitor. The object in suggesting this change was, that as some Colonies, from their age and circumstances, were more advanced than others, those in their infancy should not be placed at an undue disadvantage in an Exhibition from which all thoughts of trade rivalry should be excluded.

I am pleased to say that answers have been received which show that the suggestions made on this and other matters have been favorably accepted; and to inform you that the project of holding the Exhibition has been everywhere received with the utmost cordiality.

I trust that these preliminary arrangements may meet with your approval.

I have also to submit for your consideration the general method of administration which I recommend should be adopted.

As President of the Royal Commission, it is my intention personally to take the same active part in the work as I did at the Paris Exhibition of 1878.

The details of the Executive duties will devolve on Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, whose ability and experience have so often been tested with satisfactory results, and who has also been entrusted by the Indian Government and certain of our Colonies with Executive duties on their behalf.

I have also thought it desirable to nominate a Finance Committee for the purpose of controlling and the regulating the expenditure of the Commission and guarding the interests of the Guarantors. This Committee, it is proposed, shall consist of the following members of the Commission, who have kindly placed their services at my disposal, *viz.*, Sir John Rose, Bart. (Chairman); Sir George C. M. Birdwood; Mr. Edward Birkbeck; Sir Barrow Helbert Ellis; Sir William Charles Sargeant.

I will ask you to confirm the appointment of these gentlemen.

As arrangements advance, it may be necessary for me to recur in matters of special importance to your counsel and aid.

While no effort will be spared to render the Exhibition worthy of the primary objects, it is intended to promote, as well as to insure its attractiveness to the Community, the Guarantors may be assured that, subject to the attainment of these ends, no needless outlay will take place; but that, on the contrary, the expenditure will be kept within proper and legitimate limits. As an earnest of this endeavour I have directed full and detailed estimates of the different heads of proposed expenditure—guided by the experience of former Exhibitions—to be prepared for submission, first, to the Finance Committee, and subsequently for my own approval.

Though it is impossible to foresee what eventualities may arise, I trust no obstacles may occur to prevent this Exhibition from being, not only self-sustaining, but as successful, financially, as those of late years have been.

It has been suggested that advantage should be taken of the great numbers who will doubtless visit England during the Exhibition from the Colonies and from India, to procure for them special facilities for visiting the great manufacturing centres and chief places of interest in Great Britain, not only as an expression of welcome, but that they and we may profit by a comparison of their own with the more matured commercial systems of the Mother-Country, and that by bringing manufacturers, producers and consumers together, an impetus may be given to the general extension of industry and trade.

Negotiations are in progress to effect this object which I hope may result, not only in mutual advantage, but in proving to our fellow subjects that they are as welcome elsewhere in Great Britain as I am sure they will be in the Metropolis.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that this great undertaking and the many occasions for friendly intercourse with our fellow subjects from India and the Colonies which it will afford, may convey to them the assurance that, while we are deeply moved by the spirit of patriotism they have lately shown in desiring to bear their share in the graver trials of the country, we, on our part, wish to participate in every effort to further and develop their material interests, interests which we feel to be inseparably bound up with the prosperity of the Empire. We must remember that, as regards the Colonies, they are the legitimate and natural homes, in future, of the more adventurous and energetic portion of the population of these Islands. Their progress, and their power of providing all that makes life comfortable and attractive, cannot, therefore, but be a matter of serious concern to us all. And, as regards India, the increasing knowledge of that vast Empire and the rapid and easy means of communication to all parts of it which now exist, render its remarkable and varied products and its social and political condition a source of yearly increasing interest and importance to us.

For the attainment of the purposes I have indicated, I am sure I may rely on your friendly co-operation and assistance, in your several localities, and within the sphere of your individual influence. Although it has been impossible from the pressure of their duties elsewhere for some members of the Commission to be present at this meeting, I am gratified by the assurance from them that we may none the less rely on their practical and earnest assistance on every occasion in furthering the work which has been entrusted to us, and achieving the important ends which I trust may flow from its successful accomplishment.

It only remains for me to express my cordial thanks to you for your kindness in attending here to-day; and my confidence that I shall continue to receive the same measure

of support which it has been my good fortune to obtain from many of you on former occasions.

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen then read the correspondence relating to the appointment of the Commission and the participation of the various colonies, all of which were most willing to take advantage of this opportunity of displaying their resources and progress, and gaining a larger knowledge respecting their sister colonies.

A preliminary list of Guarantors was also read, the amount of the Guarantee Fund being already £ 128,600.

The EARL OF DERBY said: I have been asked to move a resolution, and I do it with great pleasure, but also very briefly, because argument is superfluous where I presume we are all of one mind, and it would be a mere waste of time to relate the circumstances, with which you are no doubt familiar, which should induce you to accept this resolution. There was a time, a few years ago, when it was said exhibitions were played out, and that it would be well, for a time at least, to discontinue them. I do not know whether that feeling was ever justified by the facts; it may have represented a passing phase of opinion in London, but it is not the case now. We have had recent experience, and we have seen that, whatever the ostensible objects of the exhibition, whether appliances of health, fisheries, forestry, or whatever the subject may be, the interest that is felt in these exhibitions is unabated, and ever-increasing. The numbers frequenting them seem to increase every year, and if they are well conducted, there can be no doubt they will be a financial success. If this be true, generally, it is still more likely to be true in the case of the exhibition which is to be held next year. I think we must all see and feel that there never was a time in the history of the country when so deep and general an interest was taken in the affairs of the Colonies; and I think also we all feel that, living as we do in a small and overcrowded island, it is both our duty and our interest to do all in our power to bring before the minds of our fellow countrymen those vast countries beyond the sea, in which those who have comparatively small opportunities of making a successful career in this country may have a better chance in another state of society. After the correspondence which has been read, it will not be necessary for me to recapitulate the details of what has passed, especially as His Royal Highness has been kind enough to state what is most important on that point. I will only say that to me, and those with whom I have acted departmentally, and I think I may say the agents of the colonies, it has been a source of pride and satisfaction to be able to help according to the measure of our power in promoting the wishes of His Royal Highness. I think, although the matter is not completed, and therefore it is undesirable to enter into details, that our colonial fellow subjects, both as regards governments and communities have responded to the appeal made to them in that liberal and patriotic manner we have every reason to expect. You have heard the list of Guarantors read; it is, I believe, an ample one for all purposes, and no doubt can be increased if necessary; and, looking at the increased interest in Colonial affairs, and the way the Colonies have taken the matter up, I think there is no doubt that this exhibition will be a great success. The purpose of the resolution I have to propose is that the Royal Commission may endorse the steps taken by His Royal Highness; and I think I may say that no passage in His Royal Highness's address has given so much satisfaction as that in which he gives us an assurance that he will take the same position in this exhibition as in that of 1878.

The EARL OF KIMBERLEY seconded the resolution, and said: As regards India, I have this exhibition much at heart. There is, perhaps, nothing more desirable for India than that its products and industries should be well known in this country, although we have much more to learn from than to teach them. Their beautiful manufactures which

have produced; for, so many ages have proved, that there is a knowledge of many
 arts of art which it would be a thousand pities should be diminished under our rule.
 We often been struck with the calamity of the introduction of our taste into Eastern
 manufactures; for their taste is far better than ours; although we have no doubt
 their knowledge and skill and the command of capital; and I cannot conceive of
 advantage greater than that the two countries should be brought together. The
 Government of India will itself undertake the collection and management, to a great extent
 it is to be sent into this country. You will see from the immense size of our Indian
 Empire, and the position of the Government there, that it is much better this should be
 in hand by the Government. It is a great satisfaction to me to concur entirely
 in the proposals made by His Royal Highness, and with my noble friend that this exhibi-
 tion will be a remarkable success.

The following is the resolution, which was carried unanimously: "That this Commis-
 sion entirely approves of the arrangements made by His Royal Highness the Prince of
 Wales, the Executive President, and now reported by him in detail: and they desire to
 express their cordial thanks to His Royal Highness for the interest he has shown in the
 undertaking, and their appreciation of the judicious steps taken by him to insure its
 success. The Commission further desire to express their cordial appreciation of the liberal
 and gratifying contributions already made to the Guarantee Fund, and their warm thanks
 to the subscribers."

The PRINCE OF WALES: "I feel very grateful to Lord Derby for the kind way in
 which he has moved this resolution, and to Lord Kimberley also for the kind expressions
 which have fallen from him, and for the hearty and unanimous approval of this Commission,
 which I look upon as a vote of confidence in myself. I may say that to the utmost of my
 power and endeavour I will do all I can to further the exhibition, and I feel sure that I
 have the hearty support and concurrence of the distinguished gentlemen of whom I
 am surrounded. I thank you again for having listened to the address I read to
 you and only hope that no untoward event may occur between now and next year to
 prevent this resulting in perhaps the finest exhibition that has ever been held.

The meeting then terminated.